

chemicals, explosives, jet fuel, poisons, and toxic wastes. These trucks are required to only meet Mexico's lax safety standards. For example, Mexico does not require tractor-trailers to have front brakes. Only a last minute decision in 1995 by President Clinton, under pressure from myself and other Members of Congress, prevents Mexican tractor-trailer trucks from entering the United States.

Perhaps if our trading partners had seen some improvement in the standard of living of their citizens during the last 3 years, there would have been some benefit from NAFTA. However, the study paints a grim picture of the free trade "boom" for the people of Mexico and Canada.

Despite the flow of American jobs and capital to our north and south, the average worker has benefited little, if not at all.

In Mexico, the average wage has plummeted since 1993, from \$2.40 to \$1.51 per hour. In addition, the last 3 years have seen the loss of 2 million jobs and the destruction of 28,000 small businesses.

Part of these problems are attributable to the Mexican peso devaluation of 1995, but as the "Failed Experiment" explains so well, the financial crisis was an inevitable part of Mexico's NAFTA plan. The Mexican Government purposely kept the peso's value too high for too long for a number of reasons, but mainly in the hopes of impressing upon the world that its economy was in better shape than it really was. The bottom had to fall out of the peso after the treaty was approved in order for Mexico to attract the foreign investment it so desperately wanted and make Mexican exports cheaper to other countries. Unfortunately, this type of cynical mentality still runs Mexico, and the signs for another peso crash and more misery for working Mexicans are on the horizon.

Meanwhile, our northern neighbor, Canada, has seen a steady decline in its standard of living since joining the United States as the original signatories of NAFTA in 1989. The Canadians have been mired in a recession with unemployment hovering at around 10 percent and the country's comprehensive social safety net is being dismantled in the name of competitiveness. Canada's policies and practices have been harmonized with the rest of North America's—downward.

As Congress examines extending fast-track negotiating authority, I urge my colleagues to read "Failed Experiment" and keep in mind the unpleasant track record of this trade pact for not only the United States, but all its participants.

#### IN MEMORY OF DALE JOHNSON

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned of the untimely passing of Dale Johnson, a constituent of mine from East Schodack, NY, who was a distinguished member of his community.

I knew Dale as the founder and chairman of the Second Amendment Research Group, a not-for-profit educational organization in New York State. This was a group that sought to educate itself and others about the right of citi-

zens to bear arms. Dale also was the vice chairman of the Schodack Conservative Party; a life member of the National Rifle Association; treasurer of the Historical Society of Esquatack; a member of We The People, a New York organization dedicated to ensuring a fair and just State constitutional convention; and a strong supporter and promoter of women's involvement in hunting and shooting sports.

Dale certainly made an impact upon his community. He was active in protecting and strengthening our constitutional rights. Dale also took part in preserving the historical treasures of our community. Anyone who knew him recognized that he stood up for and acted upon the issues and things he felt strongly about.

Dale was a family man, a level-headed and rational human being, and intellectually honest in his pursuits. While he knew how to be a pragmatist, he never sacrificed his core beliefs and values. He will be remembered as a truly great American.

I have attached the words which Dale drafted prior to his death that instructed his family on what to do in case he became incapacitated. I include this because his words say better than anyone can about the type of philosophy by which Dale lived his life. Maybe we can all learn something by taking a moment to read it.

W. DALE JOHNSON, JULY 16, 1943–JULY 27, 1997

At a certain moment a Doctor will determine my brain has ceased to function and for all intent and purposes my physical life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by use of a machine, and don't call this my "death-bed." Call it my "Bed of Life." Only my body has ceased to be. My spirit and love go on. It is in the hearts of all of you.

If you must bury something bury my faults, my weaknesses, and my human imperfections.

My soul I leave to God, to you my survivors I leave, all the lessons I have taught, my strength, my love, and my memories. If you want to remember me, keep me in your heart for that is where I truly live. Give to those that need you and are weaker, and learn from my mistakes. Never pass upon the opportunity to tell loved ones and friends how proud you are of them and how much you love them—always have a hand ready to extend for support and a hug to reassure in times of trial. Stand up and act on the things you feel most strongly about. Always remember silence is the same as acceptance.

When you bury my mortal remains, do not grieve, for I will not be there. My soul will be on the wind, my laughter in the sunshine, my warmth will be in the summer rain. Be joyful for the time we had, rejoice in my freedom, I am now free of the world's petty problems and I have fought all my fights. I am free to soar with the eagles and reach out and touch the face of God.

#### SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

August 27, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### BOOSTING SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

Southern Indiana has had a solid record of economic development in recent years. Unemployment in this area is at record lows—2% in some counties, the lowest in a generation. The I-65 corridor from Columbus to the Ohio River is one of the fastest growing areas in the Midwest. Three huge industrial projects—Toyota, AK Steel, and Waupaca—have chosen southern Indiana for their home. And wages are beginning to increase, providing more hard-working families with a living wage. Yet despite the progress, a variety of challenges remain as we look ahead to the future and try to enhance the quality of life for ordinary Hoosiers.

#### BENEFITS OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Southern Indiana has a lot going for it. Our infrastructure is good—two major interstate highways, a reliable energy supply, and a good system of local roads, bridges, airports, and water-sewer systems. Economic development simply cannot happen without good infrastructure.

Our communities are friendly. Southern Indiana is a good place to work, live, and raise a family. We do not have overwhelming problems of drugs, crime, AIDS, and poverty, as many areas of the country do. Southern Indiana boasts outstanding hospitals, good schools, a world-class public university system, excellent recreational opportunities, good water resources, and many other advantages. If we want to continue economic growth, we must continue to build on these strengths.

#### CHALLENGES

But that may not be enough—not enough for the world ahead of us. The world is changing, and that change is accelerating. New challenges lie ahead for businesses and workers, as rapid changes in technology, new ways of delivering services, and tough foreign competition alter the economic landscape across the country.

It is no longer enough to have a strong back, a good work ethic, and even a high school education. Today's factory worker needs to have advanced mathematics, computer skills, and teamwork skills.

In today's globalized economy, national economies are more integrated, tariffs have fallen, and technological barriers between countries have been eliminated with the advances in telecommunications and global transportation. Indiana businesses no longer compete just with Tennessee or Michigan—they compete with Turkey and Malaysia.

So who wins in this new competitive world? Much more is needed than good natural resources. In recent years I have sensed a disturbing trend. In almost every plant I have visited recently, plant managers tell me they are concerned that there are now limits on their production, or soon will be, because they cannot find enough good workers. In the days ahead, the community with the most competitive human infrastructure wins the economic development race—the town with the most highly-skilled workers, the region with the best schools and skill training programs. More than ever before, education is key to economic development.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We have a good education system in southern Indiana. Many of our students go on to perform well at top universities. They become scholars, engineers, and entrepreneurs. It is not the top students, or even the top half of the students, I am worried about. They are bright and well-motivated, and will prosper. But what worries me are the other students—those in the bottom half, those

who don't go on to college. We are failing to prepare them for today's changing world.

Employers complain that many newly-hired workers lack the capacity or the motivation to learn, do not show up ready for work, do not want to work 8 hours a day and 5 days a week, and frequently quit after a few weeks. One company I met with said they had not hired someone from the local high school in seven years. Another company I visited this summer canceled a planned expansion because they could not find enough skilled workers in the area.

These problems are certainly not unique to southern Indiana. But what all this says to me is that good as we are, as successful as we have been, it is not good enough. We need to do better.

#### NEEDED STEPS

Clearly a variety of steps are needed to boost economic development in southern Indiana. We need to improve the basic infrastructure of our communities—from roads and bridges, to water systems, to affordable housing. We must do all we can to encourage our talented young people and entrepreneurs to stay in our communities. There is no substitute for talented, creative people. And we need to work to create a business environment in which innovative and competitive efforts of the private sector can flourish. Never forget that small businesses are the backbone of the Indiana economy. They employ more than 2 million Hoosiers.

We need to frankly assess the strengths and weaknesses of our communities and work to build consensus for progress. I know that many Hoosiers are ambivalent about change, but we need to answer the most basic question of all—what kind of communities do we want? And we should recognize the positive role government can play. The character, initiative, and resourcefulness of Hoosiers are still key to our success. But so are various government activities like infrastructure and basic research.

Yet, at the very top of our list must be improving our education and training efforts. We must give priority to early education, stronger high school curricula, tougher education standards, and improved school-to-work programs. We also need to promote business/school partnerships, distance learning, and lifelong learning programs. The emphasis throughout should be on improving the work ethic and on teaching the basic skills: reading, math, communication. We simply must increase the quality of our workforce—by investing in the education and skills of Hoosiers.

And we need to remember that all of our young people must be equipped to participate in a rapidly changing economy. It is not enough to give the top students great opportunity. We have an obligation—and a strong self-interest—to ensure that all of our young people have the skills to fill the jobs in our new economy.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATTIMER MINE DISASTER

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 1897, near Hazleton, PA, a seminal event in American labor history occurred. In one of the earliest efforts by workers to organize to seek better working conditions and higher wages, 19 men died and at least 36 others were wounded in what is now known

as the Lattimer Mine Massacre. These men forever changed the face of the American labor movement.

It is difficult to imagine today the working conditions of the miners of 1897. Not only were workers paid low wages for extremely long hours under dangerous and sometimes deadly working conditions, but the coal companies maintained control over virtually every aspect of the miners' lives. They lived in company-owned houses, were forced to buy from company-owned stores, and were treated by company doctors.

The coal mined in northeastern Pennsylvania was the energy source for the industrial revolution in America. Jobs in the coal mining industry gave the newly arrived immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe of the late 1800's a chance to make better lives for themselves and their children. Immigrants from Italy, Hungary, Poland, and other countries faced enormous prejudices and difficulties in assimilating into American culture and becoming accepted by the native-born population.

On September 10, 1897, 400 men began what was to be a peaceful march and demonstration to fight to obtain better wages, better working conditions, and the ability to organize.

A posse of armed citizens led by the local sheriff attacked the miners in a massacre that left at least 19 men dead and countless others injured.

The Lattimer Mine Massacre and the subsequent trial, which ended in an acquittal of the massacre leader mine superintendent Gomer Jones, brought national attention to workers rights and the plight of the men who toiled under abysmal conditions in our Nation's coal mines. The massacre led to a strengthening of the United Mine Workers of America as the voice for anthracite miners and was the first step in helping to empower miners and break down the walls of anti-immigrant sentiment which these men faced.

Mr. Speaker, in 100 years the labor movement has come a long way. The right of workers to organize and bargain collectively is no longer questioned. Regulations now help ensure the safety of mines and other workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, on the 100th anniversary of this terrible tragedy in American labor history I would like to remember the spirit of the miners that is summed up in the following statement from the monument memorializing the massacre:

"It was not a battle because they were not aggressive, nor were they on the defensive, because they had no weapons of any kind and were simply shot down like so many worthless objects; each of the licensed life takers trying to outdo the others in butchery."

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include a copy of a story from the Hazleton Standard Speaker from September 10, 1995 which recognized the 98th Anniversary of this event. This article provides a background on what transpired 100 years ago today.

NINETY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, GUNS RANG OUT IN  
LATTIMER

(By Ed Conrad)

Today marks the 98th anniversary of the Lattimer Massacre, one of the most gruesome days in the annals of American labor.

On Sept. 10, 1897, a group of striking anthracite miners at the A.D. Pardee & Co. colliery near Harwood were marching toward

Lattimer Mines in an effort to persuade miners at the Pardee mining operation there to join their cause and walk off their jobs.

Luzerne County Sheriff James Martin and members of his posse, brandishing firearms reported supplied by mining operators, formed a roadblock near the village in an attempt to prevent the unarmed marchers from gaining access to the colliery.

Martin was ordering the miners to turn back when, suddenly, the sheriff fell to the ground, either by accident or when pushed by one of the strikers.

Almost immediately, a shot was fired—by whom has never been precisely determined—and members of the posses began firing their weapons at the marchers and a bloodbath ensued.

Nineteen striking miners were shot and killed, with six more succumbing to their gunshot wounds within two weeks.

The total of 25 men killed and many others injured made it one of the worst incidents of labor violence in the nation's history.

It was due to the growing unrest by striking miners in the Hazleton area that Martin had been asked to intervene and try and keep the peace.

The trouble in the Hazleton area mining area had begun a few weeks earlier at the Honeybrook Colliery, near McAdoo.

Twenty boys who held jobs as mule drivers refused to obey an order from Gomer Jones, division superintendent of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co., to stable their animals. The boys refused to do so unless they received extra pay.

Consequently, Jones fired the boys and triggered a strike that would leave an indelible mark on labor relations in Pennsylvania's coal fields.

Although, strikes were relatively common in northeastern Pennsylvania's coal fields, this one was worse than most as the miners' resentment against the coal operators continued to escalate.

Martin was notified of the situation and came to Hazleton where he deputized 87 men, some of them prominent persons. They reportedly were instructed to use whatever means necessary to quell any and all disturbances.

Martin, a former mine foreman, also solicited the assistance of sheriffs from both Carbon and Schuylkill counties.

Jointly, the three county sheriffs issued a proclamation banning mob parades and demonstrations.

In open defiance, striking miners began marching from colliery to colliery. Workers in Harwood were told to leave their jobs and join the effort.

It is not generally known but an ugly incident had occurred earlier on the infamous day of the Lattimer Massacre.

The same group of marchers, who hours later would be mowed down in Lattimer, had arrived in the vicinity of Hazle Mines where they attempted to get some of the miners there to join their strike.

However, the sheriff and his deputies stepped in and a brawl erupted, but no member of the posse fired his gun.

In the melee, several of the strikers were injured and two of them arrested.

Nevertheless, organizers of the march felt they had accomplished something because quite a few miners at Hazle Mines, apparently fearing for their well-being, left their jobs and fled from the vicinity of the colliery.

It was at this point that word spread among the marchers that they would leave Hazle Mines and head for the A.D. Pardee mining operation near Lattimer.

As they approached Lattimer, there were approximately 150 marchers who were carrying a pair of American flags.